

URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspector

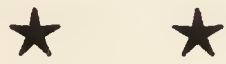
FOR THE YEAR

1952



BILSTON & SEDGLEY:
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URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY



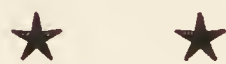
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ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952

Chairman of the Health Committee
COUNCILLOR J. FELLOWS

Medical Officer of Health
F. B. MACKENZIE, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent
DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON, M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.
Cert. Meat and Food Inspector

Additional Sanitary Inspector
R. B. M. ANDERSON, A.R.San.I., A.I.S.E.,
M.R.I.P.H.H., M.S.I.A.

Pupil Sanitary Inspector
C. WILKES

Public Health Clerks
Mrs. F. DETHERIDGE Mrs. G. FAULKS

STATISTICAL SUMMARY 1952

Area: 3,854 acres.

Population: 23,320 (estimated).

Number of Inhabited Houses: 6,480.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £398.

Rateable Value: £101,799.

General Rate: 21/- in the £.

Birth Rate: 14.1.

Death Rate: 11.15.

Infantile Death Rate, per 1,000 Births: 27.35.

Deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis: 11; from other Tuberculosis Diseases: nil.

Tuberculosis Death Rate: Respiratory 0.47; other nil.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the
URBAN DISTRICT OF SEDGLEY

To the Chairman and Members of the Sedgley Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I submit my Annual Report for 1952 in accordance with the requirements of Ministry of Health Circular 2/53.

The health of the inhabitants of your Urban District would appear to have been satisfactory throughout the year under review. There has been no invalidity attributable to causes or factors related to conditions which could be considered as coming within the province of public health preventive medicine.

The Birth Rate was 14.1 per thousand population.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 27.4 per thousand live births. The actual number of children who died before reaching the age of one year being 9 as against 10 last year.

The Crude Death Rate was 11.15 giving a standardised rate of 11.93.

In previous years I have made a practice of communicating to you in my opening letter some observations on the vital statistics and health of your Urban District, and have also reviewed the activities of your Health Committee throughout the year to promote and ensure the sanitary conditions of your area. This year my opening letter to you is more of a valedictory nature, and any information you may wish on vital statistics, general health and sanitary conditions of your district must be gleaned from the appropriate sections of the report.

Having reached the statutory age of retirement an altruistic higher authority has ordained that I now demit office before being overtaken by some cardio-vascular or other physical catastrophe, and thus be deprived of enjoying some years of leisured old age.

I was appointed Medical Officer of Health to your Urban District in 1931 succeeding the late Dr. McMillan. I was fortunate in the year of my arrival as by that time many of the prevailing undesirable features of the district, such as privies, open drainage, and insanitary dwelling houses were being rapidly swept away and replaced by efficient and modern sewage disposal works, deep drainage, the establishment of well-laid-out housing estates and the erection of attractive Council houses. Much of this wonderful improvement in the sanitary conditions of your area and the steady development of housing estates took place in the interval between the two World Wars.

The outbreak of War II slowed down and halted the progress and development of many of the improvement schemes your Council had in mind, but since the termination of hostilities in 1945, and in spite of material shortages and economic stringencies, the opening up of new housing estates and the number of houses erected thereon have placed you high on the list as a progressive housing authority.

Your Council has still many projected developments to be carried out to promote the attractiveness of the district, such as the sweeping away of much residual old property and the clearance of congested areas, both of which are the sine qua non requirements of a healthy environment, but much of this can only be planned on a long term basis. There is no doubt much has been accomplished by your Council during the last twentyfive years to enhance the health of your residents and to any one returning to your area after that period of absence, the transformation in the appearance of your district could not but strike him as being remarkable.

In closing a period of twentyfive years service with the County and as your Medical Officer of Health, it might be relevant and appropriate to ask what impressions have I formed in that time. First of all, such a period is one on which an opinion can be based. In that time the wheel has turned full cycle. By this I mean, one has seen the infants one saw in Infant Welfare Centres reach manhood and womanhood. One has seen them through their school life and adolescence and in not a few cases one has finished by seeing them fathers and mothers, and now with infants of their own setting the ever-turning wheel of life in motion again. The infants are better, the school children are physically and nutritionally better, and better turned out, and the girls who now return to the Infant Welfare Centres as mothers, are very different in outlook and attitude from their own mothers whom one once saw.

A period of 25 years certainly gives ample opportunity of assessing the value of the work you have been engaged in, and who can dispute the advances made in Public Health. Standards of sanitation and hygiene have improved and measures for the protection of food supplies strengthened. Enteric fever is now a rarity and nearly always associated with a carrier. The incidence of diphtheria has been phenomenally reduced as a result of immunisation. Scarlet fever has declined much in virulence, and puerperal fever and other streptococcal diseases have been remarkably reduced. Small-pox occasionally occurs at intervals in different parts of the country, due generally to importation as a result of facilities for travel by air to and from countries abroad where such disease may be prevalent. Pulmonary tuberculosis is certainly showing a reduction in mortality but still calls for intensive preventive measures to reduce the incidence of this disease.

I am proud to have been your Medical Officer of Health and it is with regret that I sever my service with your Urban District, and surrender to the younger generation of Medical Officers of Health, no doubt brought up and trained on a curriculum modernised and more adapted to deal with the present outlook on Public Health, and the position it occupies in relation to the National Health Service. That latter service is essentially concerned with the provision of medical and surgical services to the actually sick. Advances in surgical technique and recent discoveries in medicine and anti-biotics have brought both these fields very much into the limelight, and rightly too, and naturally so, because it is the curative aspect that appeals to the sufferer. But that does not by one iota detract from the importance of Preventive Medicine, so many ailments and diseases being avoidable.

The Public Health Service is essentially a preventive one and communities owe much to it in the way of prevention and control over infectious diseases; but at the moment the emphasis is on personal service, housing, home helps, care of the aged, social, environmental and industrial conditions.

Preventive public health measures of the past and paediatrics and geriatrics of the present, would appear to have been so efficient, that with decreasing infantile mortality, rise in expectation of life and resultant increasing longevity people are now living longer, and we are being faced with the problem of the aged. How impossible a situation it would become for the world economically, physically and socially, and what a dreadful picture one can conjure up if an elixir for the attainment of eternal life on this earth were ever discovered. Certainly not "a consummation devoutly to be wished". So

it would almost appear to be, that infant welfare and paediatrics at the beginning of life and geriatrics towards the end of life, are supplanting the public health problems of the past.

Nevertheless in spite of this trend towards personal and social service the old public health problems of protecting water and milk supplies, safeguarding food, ensuring efficient drainage and sewerage and combatting outbreaks of infectious diseases are still with us, and must not be lost sight of or subordinated to the personal and social services.

In closing I take this last opportunity of thanking the various Chairmen and Members of the Health Committees, at whose deliberations I have had the privilege of attending, for the help, co-operation and encouragement they have given me in my efforts to promote and maintain the health of your Urban District during my tenure of office.

To the private practitioners in the Urban District I also tender my best thanks for their co-operation and unvarying courtesy.

To the nurses and midwives I convey my appreciation of the efficient services they have rendered to your residents.

I also pay tribute to your Sanitary Inspectors, past and present, who have contributed so much to improving the hygienic conditions of your district and for their activities in ridding your district of much insanitary property.

It would be remiss and ungrateful if I did not take this last opportunity of thanking your Clerk, Surveyor and colleagues in charge of other of your Council Departments, for their advice and help when I have had occasion to consult them. It has been a pleasure to serve with them.

I also thank the clerical staff for their invaluable help and ungrudging willingness to be of service to me at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

F. B. MACKENZIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1953.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

The Medical Officer of Health holds office in virtue of a joint appointment by Staffordshire County Council, Sedgley Urban District Council, and Tettenhall Urban District Council, apportionment of his time and services to each of the two Urban Authorities being based on the population of the respective districts.

The Sanitary Inspector, who is also a qualified Meat and Food Inspector, is a full time officer and is appointed solely by the Local Authority.

The Health Visitors, three, are under the direction of the Local Health Authority.

In accordance with Part III of the National Health Service Act, Health Services are provided by the Local Health Authority, namely the County Council, the organisation and administration being in the hands of the County Medical Officer of Health.

The Health Services which Part III of the Act requires to be provided are:—

- (a) Health Centres.
- (b) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- (c) Midwifery.
- (d) Health Visiting.
- (e) Home Nursing.
- (f) Vaccination and Immunisation.
- (g) Ambulance Service.
- (h) Prevention of illness, care and after care.
- (i) Domestic Help.

With the exception of the provision of Health Centres, all the required services are being provided in your area.

As regards the General Hospital and Specialist Services, their administration is vested in the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

The Hospitals and Departments available, and easily accessible to your area, are those of Wolverhampton, Dudley and Birmingham.

Infectious Diseases

The Infectious Diseases Hospitals are under the control of the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board.

Ambulance Service

This service is provided by Staffordshire County Council.

Tuberculosis

Dispensaries are situated at Wolverhampton and Dudley and various Sanatoria are available.

Maternity Cases are provided for by:—

- (a) Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home.
- (b) Wordsley Hospital.

Laboratory Facilities

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are made by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

National Assistance Act, 1947

It was not found necessary to exercise powers under Section 47 of the Act for the appropriate care of aged and infirm persons incapable of looking after themselves.

VITAL STATISTICS

		TOTAL	M.	F.	Birth Rate
Live Births	.. ..	329	165	164	14.108
Legitimate	..	323	163	160	
Illegitimate	..	6	2	4	

Still Births: Total 5. Rate per 1,000 Total Births, 13.16.

		TOTAL	M.	F.	Death Rate
Deaths	.. ..	260	129	131	11.15

Number of women dying in or in consequence of Childbirth: 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births (9) 27.35

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births (9) 27.83

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 40

Deaths from Measles (all ages) —

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 1

Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. 1

BIRTH RATES

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate
1943	364	17.37	16.5
1944	378	17.94	17.6
1945	331	15.78	16.1
1946	346	16.09	19.1
1947	401	18.39	20.5
1948	362	16.72	17.9
1949	359	16.32	16.7
1950	327	14.27	15.8
1951	373	16.09	15.5
1952	329	14.11	15.3

DEATH RATES

	SEDGLEY		England and Wales
Year	No. of Deaths	Death Rate	Death Rate
1943	235	11.21	12.1
1944	195	9.25	11.6
1945	239	11.39	11.4
1946	211	9.81	11.5
1947	243	11.14	12.0
1948	185	8.54	10.8
1949	241	10.95	11.7
1950	251	10.95	11.6
1951	293	12.64	12.5
1952	260	11.15	11.3

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1952

					M.	F.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	8	3			
2.	Tuberculosis, other	—	—			
3.	Syphilitic disease	—	—			
4.	Diphtheria	—	—			
5.	Whooping Cough	1	—			
6.	Meningococcal infections	—	1			
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	—	—			
8.	Measles	—	—			
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	2			
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	5			
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	4			
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4			
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2			
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	7			
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1			
16.	Diabetes	—	4			
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	22			
18.	Coronary disease, angina	7	4			
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	4			
20.	Other heart disease.. .. .	25	37			
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	3			
22.	Influenza	—	1			
23.	Pneumonia	8	1			
24.	Bronchitis	20	4			
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	—			
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	—			
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1			
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—			
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—			
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1			
31.	Congenital malformations.. .. .	—	—			
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	12	15			
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1			
34.	All other accidents	1	3			
35.	Suicide	—	1			
36.	Homicide and operations of war	—	—			
TOTAL ..					129	131

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1952,

Nett Deaths from causes stated at various ages under one year of age :

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Heart Failure	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Broncho Pneumonia ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough ..	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Pulm. Oedema	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Asphyxia Pallida ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Gastro-Enteritis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
	4	-	-	-	4	3	-	1	1	9

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE

Year	SEDGLEY			England & Wales Rate per 1,000 Births
	Births	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Births	
1943	364	22	60.4	49
1944	378	12	31.7	46
1945	331	17	51.36	46
1946	346	11	31.79	43
1947	401	16	39.9	41
1948	362	13	35.91	34
1949	359	16	44.56	32
1950	327	17	51.98	29
1951	373	10	26.81	29
1952	329	9	27.35	27.6

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The prevalence of notifiable diseases during the year shows a marked decrease on last year, the number of notifications being 252 as against 494 last year.

Diphtheria

One case was notified. This was in an adult.

Scarlet Fever

30 cases were notified as against 26 last year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

There were 108 cases as against 71 last year. There was one death.

Measles

96 cases were notified, as against 360 last year. There were no deaths.

Pneumonia

13 cases were notified, as against 28 last year.

Erysipelas

2 cases were notified, as against 5 last year.

Meningitis

2 cases were notified.

Cases admitted to Hospital

The total number of cases admitted to Hospital for Infectious Diseases were 13:—

Moxley Hospital—

Measles	..	..	..	..	..	2
Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	1
Suspected Diphtheria	1
Pneumonia	3
Whooping Cough	1

Stallings Lane—

Scarlet Fever	3
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AGE-GROUPS and LOCALITY-DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
(excluding Tuberculosis) notified in 1952

DISEASE	Total All Ages	Sex		Under 1 year	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65 and over	Sedgley	Upper Gornal	Lower Gornal	Goldthorn Park
		M.	F.													
Scarlet Fever	30	16	14	—	2	6	21	1	—	—	—	—	10	7	10	3
Whooping Cough	108	49	59	5	42	24	36	—	—	1	—	—	25	21	49	13
Measles	96	44	52	9	16	26	43	—	1	1	—	—	58	6	18	14
Diphtheria	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia	13	11	2	—	1	—	3	1	—	3	3	2	6	2	2	3
Erysipelas	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
	252	122	130	14	62	57	103	2	1	8	3	2	99	36	84	33

Swabs and Specimens submitted to the Public Health Laboratory:—

Nose and Throat Swabs	..	..	..	21
Swabs from Tonsils	..	..	..	13
Swabs from Gums	..	..	..	5
Sputa Swabs	..	..	..	186

The great majority of these sputa swabs were submitted by the Tuberculosis Officer.

General Measures

School notifications of infectious disease are carefully scrutinised and made prompt use of for the purpose of guidance and location.

Schools are disinfected when considered desirable. The opening wide of windows to ensure a free circulation of fresh air is also insisted upon during week-ends and holiday periods.

Terminal disinfection of premises and articles which have been exposed to infection is also carried out in all cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Tuberculosis, Cancer and other cases of long standing disease.

Disinfection is by means of formaldehyde lamps and disinfectant fluid.

Immunisation

Immunisation has been carried out actively in the area throughout the year. Statistical information is held at the office of the Area Medical Officer.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There have been no notified cases of Food Poisoning in the district; but the occurrence of outbreaks of food poisoning from time to time throughout the country draws attention to the necessity for the strictest personal cleanliness of all food-handlers whether in preparation of food or in the transport and storage of same.

Your Civic Restaurant has been visited from time to time throughout the year and on each occasion the standard of cleanliness and hygiene was most satisfactory.

TUBERCULOSIS

The number of new cases notified for the year was 16 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary as against 17 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary in 1951.

AGE PERIODS	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Respiratory		Other	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 to 9 years	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 14 years	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
15 to 19 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 24 years	2	4	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 34 years	1	4	1	—	2	1	—	—
35 to 44 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 to 54 years	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
	6	10	3	—	8	3	—	—

Deaths are in relation to the total number of notified cases on the Register.

YEARLY FIGURES FOR THE LAST DECADE

YEAR	NEW CASES		DEATHS	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1943	23	—	14	—
1944	18	4	10	2
1945	19	4	8	6
1946	17	4	5	2
1947	16	1	6	1
1948	21	2	10	—
1949	19	5	8	—
1950	22	2	6	3
1951	17	3	6	1
1952	16	3	11	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

With the exception of the Goldthorn Park area, which is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation, the district is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company.

I am indebted to Mr. R. A. Robertson, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., and Mr. Brian L. McMillan, B.Sc., M.Inst.C.E., the respective Engineers-in-Chief of the undermentioned undertakings, for the following information:—

(a) South Staffordshire Waterworks Company

- (i) The water supply to the area in its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.
- (ii) The Sedgley district is supplied by water from service reservoirs at Dudley which are normally supplied from four pumping stations in the Smestow Valley, together with part of the yield from two further pumping stations in the Lichfield area, the water from one of which is derived from a surface course.

Water from the various pumping stations is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically, and bacteriological examinations are also made of raw waters where the layout of the pipework permits.

Out of 80 samples taken from Sedgley Reservoir and Tanks and from the Waterman's House, which may be taken as representative of the water supplied in Sedgley, only one contained irregular bacteria in 100 ml. The others were free from Coliform bacteria.

The average chemical results for 1952 of the samples examined were as follows:—

pH	..	..	..	..	7.1			
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	..				75	parts	per	million
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..			33.5	"	"	"
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)					Trace	"	"	"
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..				Trace	"	"	"
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..				2.6	"	"	"
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C.)					.12	"	"	"
Temporary Hardness	..				69	"	"	"
Permanent Hardness	..				54	"	"	"
Total Hardness	..	..			123	"	"	"
Iron (Fe)	..	..	..		.04	"	"	"
Manganese (Mn)	..	..			Nil	"	"	"
Zinc (Zn)	..	..	..		Nil	"	"	"
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)					Nil	"	"	"
Free Cl	..	..	..		Nil	"	"	"

(iii) The waters are not liable to plumbo-solvency, no lead being detected in any of the 20 samples examined.

(iv) Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations as a precautionary measure.

In cases of possible contamination in the event of burst or damaged mains, emptying reservoirs, etc., emergency chlorination is performed. Special apparatus and staff are available for this work. New mains, etc., are not brought into use until the water has been examined and pronounced satisfactory.

(v) Number of dwelling-houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains—

(a)	direct to the houses	..	..	5455	houses
(b)	by means of stand-pipes	..	..	676	„

Total ..				6131	houses
----------	--	--	--	------	--------

Assuming 3.75 persons per house the population supplied is 22,991.

(b) Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking

The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking to the Goldthorn Park area is derived from a number of sources of supply, and the relative proportions depend on the part of the district and varying circumstances.

(i) The supply of water to the portion of the Sedgley Urban District concerned has been satisfactory both in quality and in quantity.

(ii) The following is a summary of the Bacteriological examination of water going into distribution.

Number of samples taken	Presumptive Coli-aerogenes per 100 ml.			
	0	1—2	3—10	Over 10
839	828	8	—	3

Chemical analyses were also made of the water supply and results were satisfactory.

- (iii) The water supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Water Undertaking has no plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) A temporary appearance of Bact. Coli Type II in Essington Water Tower was dealt with by chlorination. Subsequent to treatment at the Works, where necessary, there has been no other known contamination of the supply.
- (v) The number of dwelling houses in the Goldthorn Park area supplied direct is 819 and the population thereof estimated at 2,866. None are supplied by standpipe.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

I am indebted to your Surveyor, Mr. W. M. Jones, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.M.I.C.E. for the following report:—

Sewerage

“No serious trouble has been experienced with the foul sewers of the District apart from occasional stoppages, which were quickly dealt with.

The Vale Street foul sewer was completed during the year and many of the houses have been disconnected from cesspools and connected to the new sewer.

Work has been commenced at Modenhill and Garden Walk to dispose of foul water which hitherto has run along open channels and been a source of great nuisance.

Surface water sewers have functioned reasonably well though there is a need for considerable extension of the existing system. The lack of surface water sewers in many roads means that no additional gullies can be provided and that the existing gullies in those roads have no outlet except by soakaway. Many old gullies were constructed of brickwork built off an earth bottom, and where surface water drainage is available these are being replaced by stoneware pot gullies as opportunity offers.

The gully emptying machine also has to deal with cesspools, some of which due to insufficient capacity and the entry of rainwater, need emptying as frequently as once a week.

A length of sewer was laid in Burton Road to take sewage from Gortons Rope Works and the Ice Cream Factory and replaces the former cesspools.

While during the year several cesspools were abolished by the provision of new foul sewer extensions, the number of cesspools has increased by the erection of new houses in positions where no sewers at present exist, notably Cotwallend Road and Catholic Lane.

Sewage Disposal

Reasonably satisfactory effluents have been produced at all the Works, but schemes for extension of the Lower Gornal and Gospel End Works are now in hand, as with the development of land for housing in the drainage areas being imminent, the matter is of considerable importance. It will be necessary for

the capacities of these Works to be almost doubled, and consideration will be given to more modern methods of purification and sludge disposal in the design of the extensions.

Public Conveniences

During the year the convenience in Robert Street, near Five Ways was completed, and the construction of one at Dudding Road commenced. It is a matter of great concern to the members of the Public Works Committee that continual wilful damage is done to all conveniences.

Municipal Cemetery

The layout of the first part of the Municipal Cemetery at Cinder Road has been completed. The Dudley Corporation has joined with this Council in the future administration of the Cemetery, which it is proposed should be of the "lawn" type. Areas are proposed to be reserved for tablets and others for approved types of headstones.

Plans for an administration block of offices, waiting rooms and conveniences are in preparation to be sited at the main entrance off Chase Road.

Consideration is being given to the erection of a Superintendent's house, and the possibility of a crematorium on the site is also being explored".

Sanitary Inspection

The systematic inspection of the district has been carried out in an efficient manner. Details are given in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING

Houses completed during the period 1st January to the 31st December, 1952:—

Municipal Houses	136
Private houses built during the same period	24
	<hr/>
	160
	<hr/>

The observations on the housing situation which I made in my report last year may be accepted as more or less the same. The waiting list of applicants still remains a formidable one.

The great majority of interviews requested with the Medical Officer, are in relation to ill or indifferent health as due to adverse housing conditions and it is on medical grounds that the majority ask that consideration be given to their application for re-housing, and many of the problems can only be solved by the active co-operation of the Housing Committee with the Health Committee.

In respect of repair and maintenance of older houses this is a most vexed and contentious problem bristling with all types of difficulties. I am of the opinion, and in this I am in agreement with views expressed in other parts of the country, that older houses are through economic circumstances deteriorating into sub-standard houses as a result of the inability of the owner to meet the necessary costs of repair out of income from rents received.

It might not be amiss to give two extracts from the address by Mr. W. R. Brackett, Chairman of the Town and Country Planning Committee, to the Royal Sanitary Institute Congress held at Hastings recently.

“It is, perhaps, the demand for land made by housing that has more than anything else borne into the public conscience the need for town planning to control the remorseless urban sprawl over good farm land and valuable minerals”.

“In the field of housing, the immediate problem is to find means of economising in the demand for land, and I feel that higher-density housing than the ten to the acre estates of semi-detached houses is bound to come in the interests of both amenity and land economy. Houses and flats not above first floor level might be provided, and one has only to look at some of the gardens on housing estates to realise that not all tenants have both the time and inclination for gardening; they would be as well-housed in flats”.

Your Sanitary Inspector makes a further contribution in respect of the housing situation, in his section of the report.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

HOUSING

During the year 1952, slum clearance began to occupy a more prominent place in our minds. Owing perhaps to certain government pronouncements, cautious though they were, we began to plan on somewhat bolder lines for the redevelopment of our district.

In my last report, I stated that an annual target of 60 houses, to be dealt with under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, was our aim. We did not reach that number during 1952, in fact, only 24 houses were dealt with under that particular section.

The houses in question were:—

- 4, Gospel End Road
- 18, Gospel End Street
- 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, Monument Lane
- 9, Burton Road
- 11, 12, Mill Bank
- 14, Pale Street
- 1, Club Row
- 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, Humphrey Street.

A number of other houses were carefully considered in this connection, both by the department and by the Committee but the final decision was to postpone action on the above lines for the time being. Some of the houses which had previously been condemned and demolished had left ugly scars in otherwise reasonably attractive looking streets. How to avoid such disfiguring of the district was now a problem of some importance.

The solution appeared to lie in the direction of Clearance Areas, dealt with as Compulsory Purchase Orders, rather than individual unfits. Really bad houses of the dangerous-to-life-or-limb variety, or the disgrace-to-the-district type, had already been dealt with. With the remainder of the houses in the unfit category, although it is a category which increases every year, there was not the same urgency for immediate action.

It will be noted that the majority of the 24 houses condemned were in two areas. The Monument Lane group, together with another nine houses and adjoining fields, formed the subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order, and the area will be developed as a site for municipal housing. Unfortunately we were not able to deal with the Humphrey Street group in this manner as the site was too restricted.

A Compulsory Purchase Order was also made on a site at Cricket Meadow, where there are 16 houses. These houses, with the possible exception of two, are all in the demolition class, although they had not actually been dealt with under the Housing Act. The use of the site for building purposes was the prime reason for action here.

As a result of the year's activities, 49 families will require to be rehoused and their present houses demolished. We came, therefore, much closer to our target than was originally apparent.

With regard to rehousing families from condemned property, 20% of all new houses erected by the Local Authority are allocated for this purpose. If the number of houses built falls below the number we expect, it means that the rehousing of families from condemned property is also retarded, and it may even affect the rate at which we can deal with future clearance areas. So far, no great trouble has been experienced in this connection. A much greater difficulty has arisen in finding suitable accommodation for the displaced families. Even in the ordinary application list for Council Houses there are many people who cannot afford the rents of post-war houses. This problem will continue to arise to a greater extent in Clearance Areas, where we will find numbers of families who have not even applied for Council Houses, perhaps because they felt that the rents were beyond their means.

In the past we have been able to solve such problems by exchanges. Families in the cheaper post-war estates who desired new houses have been moved, thereby releasing houses for families with lower incomes. But, since rebuilding commenced after the war, most families who want to exchange to new houses have already done so. The number of such exchanges will almost certainly decline during the next few years. In fact, many of the applications for exchanges which we now receive are from families in post-war houses who wish to move back into the cheaper pre-war houses.

I can foresee that the shortage of low-rented houses will constitute a problem of the first magnitude in the future and one that may nullify our efforts at slum clearance and redevelopment unless something is done to supply this demand. It seems to me that a certain number of cheap houses is absolutely essential. They can either be new houses specially designed to rent at a low figure, or old houses purchased by the Local Authority.

The biggest matter considered during the year was a proposed scheme for the redevelopment of Upper Gornal. The area under consideration consists of 564 houses together with 78 business premises. The life of every dwelling house was estimated and they were placed in five groups.

31 houses or 5.4% are already under demolition orders.
 126 houses or 22.6% have less than 5 years life.
 137 houses or 24.2% have between 5 and 10 years life.
 158 houses or 28.0% have between 10 and 20 years life.
 112 houses or 19.8% have over 20 years life.

The scheme at present envisages the complete replanning of the area, including the widening of the main road which runs right through the middle of it. The intention is to divide this huge area into 10—20 smaller areas and deal with them under the Housing Act one by one. I do not under-estimate the difficulties to be overcome nor the opposition which will be met. The Council have agreed in principal with the scheme, realising that the area is a bad one and ripe for redevelopment. The actual putting into practice of these grandiose schemes, however, is quite another matter.

The question of repairs to existing houses still remained the difficult one to which I drew attention in my last report. A house may require repairs but any of the following reasons may be sufficient to prevent action being taken to have the repairs carried out.

- (1) The house may be scheduled for demolition within the near future.
- (2) The cost of repairs may be unreasonable.
- (3) The tenant may not desire to be disturbed by the proposed repairs.

As an example of what may happen when action is taken in spite of the above three reasons, I will complete the tale commenced in my last report about nine houses in Humphrey Street. The owner could not afford the cost of the repairs. The Ministry would not sanction purchase by the Local Authority. There was no alternative to action under Sec. 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and as the owners could not put forward any undertaking, Demolition Orders were made. As stated in my last report, this property was not in my opinion in the demolition class. It was capable of repair. It is disturbing to think there are hundreds of other houses in this district, apart altogether from the bad ones, which would be condemned were we to let loose the Housing Act, 1936, on them. And it only needs one disgruntled tenant to make sufficient complaints for the Act to have to be set in motion.

We have tried to avoid the danger of too many complaints of this kind by allocating 20% of all new houses erected by the Local Authority to tenants of such sub-standard property.

The letting of Council Houses is carried out by this department, and during the year 136 new houses were let. This number, together with the few odd houses which became vacant from time to time, and the policy of arranging exchanges in suitable cases, enabled us to rehouse 194 families in all.

Of this figure of 194 families, 103 came from the ordinary application list, the tenants being selected according to a points scheme. The number of families rehoused from condemned property was 19, and 18 families were rehoused from sub-standard property. A number of one-bedroom flats were completed during the year and 14 of these were let to applicants for this type of house. Families already occupying Council Houses who were moved at their own desire to new houses, flats, or other accommodation under the control of the Council, numbered 37. In addition to the above, 3 special cases were rehoused during the year.

At the beginning of the year, the number of applicants on our register was 1,160. At the end of the year a thorough check was made, everyone on the register being written to. Advertisements were also inserted in the local newspapers, and we eventually arrived at a live figure for our register of 948.

Applications for Council Houses of all types are received at the office and placed in their preliminary categories. From time to time, those in the highest groups are checked at their homes. The checked cases are then brought before the Housing Committee, and no one is allocated a house until approved by the Committee. When it is realised that there are several categories (ordinary applications, condemned houses, sub-standard houses, flats, and exchanges), each with their own pointing or basis for consideration, and that these categories can be further sub-divided, it will be obvious how complicated the whole business of lettings is becoming.

I have a strong feeling that the interest shown by the Committee members in the details of the administration is tending to cloud their view of the broader matters of principle or policy. It should not be difficult to lay down lines of policy which could be followed by the officers, thereby saving much duplication of work and many hours of frustrating labour.

In concluding this section, I cannot help referring to the attitude of certain applicants for houses. Before they have been finally approved they are most persistent in stating how great their needs are. The tales some of them tell are pitiful in the extreme. One might think they would be grateful for anything so long as it was a roof over their heads. Once they have been approved, however, and they know they will definitely get a house, the attitude of many of them undergoes a dramatic change. They now want to pick their house and nothing but the best will do. Every approved applicant is supplied with a form showing a choice of 31 localities. He is asked to place a cross against each one he would be prepared to take, and it

is stressed that the more crosses that appear on the form, the sooner will he be rehoused. In spite of this, the number of forms returned with only one cross is very large. Two or three crosses only is the average result, and this from people who are presumably desperate for rehousing. Even with "one cross" people, some still want to pick one particular house with a better view, fewer steps to the front door or so on. The number of people who cannot climb hills is legion, in fact, this must be the most rheumatically district in the country.

The conclusion to be drawn from the above is that we have apparently broken the back of the very acute housing problem that existed in the after war years. We are no longer called upon to provide merely shelter for homeless families; our problem now is to provide houses of the right design, with suitable rentals, situated in the most desirable neighbourhoods for people who are rather fussy about what they want.

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

The inspection of pigs at a small bacon factory takes up a considerable amount of our time. Three days a week someone has to be on tap for the greater part of the day in order to inspect the meat before offals and organs get hopelessly mixed up. The only really satisfactory way to carry out the inspection is to remain on the premises during the whole time killing is in progress and examine everything as it appears. This is a slow method, as one inspector may thereby spend five hours examining 50 pigs. The alternative is to go to the slaughterhouse at the end of killing and try to sort things out. I much prefer the first method. Time wasted seems to me preferable to the exasperation which inevitably results from having to squeeze through carcasses packed tightly on rails, argue about the order plucks have been placed in, or gaze at a heap of intestines wondering if one particular set can be identified. The point I wish to stress is that this work takes up a considerable proportion of the time available in the department. It is work which carries on 52 weeks in the year. Every Bank Holiday, with the exception of Christmas, is spoilt for some member of the staff. And, working after normal hours, especially before Christmas, is a normal procedure.

During the year 3,779 pigs were slaughtered at this bacon factory. This is nearly double the number killed during 1951. Fortunately, throughout the year the pigs examined were remarkably free from disease. The following table, which is in the form required by the Ministry of Health, gives particulars of the meat inspected and condemned. The Total figure includes 314 cottagers' pigs inspected.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned

	Pigs
Number killed	4,093
Number inspected	4,093
All diseases except tuberculosis:	
Whole carcasses condemned	0
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with the disease other than tuberculosis..	1.29
Tuberculosis only:	
Whole carcase condemned	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	84
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	2.08

The other diseases, apart from tuberculosis, in the above table were Pneumonia, Dropsy, Abscess, Urticaria, Necrosis, and Cirrhosis. The total weight of meat condemned during the year was 17 cwts.

Situated as we are, very close to Wolverhampton and Dudley, there are in consequence few shops in this area. We have little trouble with the few we have, all of them being clean and well maintained. Foodstuffs inspected and condemned during the year in the various shops are listed below.

307 tins of meat	234 tins of fruit
14 tins of peas	1 jar of cockles
15 tins of beans	1 jar of chutney
71 tins of tomatoes	2 tins of soup
20 tins of milk	17 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. of cheese
43 tins of fish	8 lbs. ham
2 tins of jam	8 lbs. bacon
1 tin of carrots	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of tea
1 tin baby food	14 dozen eggs

This district is not the Food and Drugs Authority, and sampling of food is carried out by the County Council. During the year, 53 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examination. Three of these samples, in each case undesignated milk, failed to pass the methylene blue test. A further 19 samples of milk were taken and submitted to biological tests for tubercle bacilli. All these proved negative.

Samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, are detailed below.

Milk				
Milk	..	..	..	30
Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	24
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	25
Milk Accredited	..	..	..	2
Milk T.T.	..	..	..	8
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	20
Milk T.T. Certified	..	..	..	2
Milk T.T. Channel Island	..	..	..	1
				<hr/> 112
Number of Samples taken	..	..	..	112
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	..	110
Number of Samples Adulterated	..	..	..	2

General Foods

Number of Samples taken	..	..	52
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	52

CLASSIFICATION OF GENERAL FOODS

Ground Rice
 Pork Sausage (4 samples)
 Horseradish Relish
 Golden Raising Flour
 Table Jelly (2 samples)
 Butchers Fat
 Ice Lollipops
 Ice Fruit Lollies
 Lime Juice Cordial
 Orange Marmalade (Special Standard)
 Lemon Curd
 Ice Cream (4 samples)
 Glucose
 Damson Jam F.F.S.
 Custard Powder
 Jelly Crystals
 Powdered Gelatine
 Orange Milk Shake
 Balsam of Horehound
 Chocolate Rolls
 Sauce
 Cream of Mushroom Soup
 Ground Almonds (3 samples)
 Mixed Fruit Pudding
 Meat Soup
 Soya Flour
 Tea
 Arrowroot
 Currants
 Cornflour
 Self Raising Flour
 Shredded Beef Suet
 Semolina
 Epsom Salts B.P.
 Potted Chicken
 Compound Liquorice and Chlorodine Lozenges
 Ground Ginger
 Mild Ale
 Cider
 Butter Mints

Particulars of Adulterated Samples

Milk—5.7 % deficient in fat—No proceedings instituted.
 Milk—3.3 % deficient in fat—No proceedings instituted.

All premises where food is handled received regular attention throughout the year. Most, if not all, of the premises concerned are small and are generally under the personal direction of the owner. No complaints of a serious nature had to be made during the year, and small matters were readily put right.

The number and description of the various types of food premises in the district are given in the following list.

Restaurants	..	..	..	2
Residential Hotel	..	..	..	1
Work Canteens	..	..	..	3
School Kitchens	..	..	..	3
Preserved Food Manufacturers			..	7
Butchers' Shops	..	..	..	20
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	12
Bakehouses	..	..	..	7
Ice Cream Manufacturers		..	..	1

There are, of course, in addition to the premises in the above table, the shops of the district. Once again, I must point out that these are comparatively few in number and small in size, considering the population of the district.

During the summer months, 60 samples of ice-cream were taken by the department. These resulted in the following classification—

Grade 1	..	..	17
Grade 2	..	..	24
Grade 3	..	..	6
Grade 4	..	..	13

This was quite an improvement on the result of the previous year. Apart from the one manufacturer mentioned above, all ice-cream is imported and sold as received, that is to say, it is pre-packed and supplied by well known manufacturers. Only in one case did we find as many as three Grade 4 samples in one shop. This was a newly opened shop, and the manufacturer, in a neighbouring district, not particularly well known. The other grade 4 samples were sporadic and difficult to account for.

INSPECTIONS AND WORK CARRIED OUT

This section is mainly statistical. First, I give a table showing the number of inspections carried out during the year to the various types of premises within the district.

Ants	33
Ashbins	146
Bakehouses	54
Canteens and Restaurants	52
Cottagers' Pigs	301
Cesspools	42
Drainage	32
Dirty Houses	13
Fried Fish Shops	72
Food Premises	207
Factories (Power)	76
Factories (No Power)	7
General Nuisances	5
Houses fumigated	42
Houses under P.H.A.	209
Housing Act	359
Ice Cream Premises	217
Infectious Disease	30
Interviews	64
Letting of Council Houses	891
Licensed Premises	44
Milk and Dairies Act	5
Miscellaneous	23
Meat Shops	68
Overcrowding	11
Public Cleansing	361
Piggeries	3
Re-inspections	485
Rats and Mice Destruction	122
Smoke Abatement	19
Slaughterhouses	145
Shops Act	495
Salvage	53
Sheds—Council Houses	251
Tents, Vans and Sheds	128
	<hr/>
	5,065

The inspections listed above resulted in the serving of 153 informal notices. In 20 cases, the works asked for were not complied with, and the matters had to be reported to the Health Committee with the subsequent service of Statutory Notices.

A Statutory Notice served during the previous year resulted in Court proceedings early in 1952. The Council were successful in obtaining a Nuisance Order against the owners of the property in question, and the defects were then remedied.

There is always a certain time lag between the service of a notice and its compliance, but during the year under review 190 notices were marked off as complied, thereby considerably reducing the number outstanding.

As a result of the notices served, the following works were carried out to properties of various kinds.

Ashbins provided	..	..	..	68
Burst pipes repaired	..	..	..	5
Bakehouses limewashed	..	..	..	6
Ceilings repaired or renewed	..	..		11
Ceilings whitewashed	..	..	..	1
Chimney stacks repaired		..	..	7
Dampness remedied	..	..	..	2
Dirty premises cleansed	..	..	..	2
Doors renewed	..	..	..	1
Doors repaired	..	..	..	2
Drainage provided	..	..	..	3
Drainage cleared	..	..	..	2
Firegrates repaired or renewed	..	..		7
Floors repaired	..	..	..	6
Floors cleansed	..	..	..	1
Fowl pens tidied or renewed	..	..		9
House roof repaired	..	..	..	23
Houses demolished	..	..	..	22
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	24
New Wash House provided	..	..		1
Plaster-work repaired	..	..	..	8
Rooms cleansed	..	..	..	5
Spouting repaired or provided		..		2
Stair treads repaired	..	..	..	3
Sheds removed or tidied		..	..	2
Walls pointed	..	..	..	3
Walls limewashed	..	..	..	3
Washing boilers repaired or renewed	..			3

Washing facilities provided in shops ..	3
Water supply re-introduced	2
W.C. cleansed	3
W.C. repaired	6
W.C. new pan provided	1
W.C. cistern repaired	6
Windows repaired	11
Yards cleansed	5
Yard paving laid	2

PUBLIC CLEANSING

To start at the beginning, a few words must be devoted to the temporary storage of refuse at the home. We endeavour to have installed at all premises, $2\frac{1}{2}$ cu. ft. galvanized B.S.S. dustbins, but as we have no municipal bin provision scheme, we are really at the mercy of owners. The fact that we get so few unsuitable containers is really a tribute to the co-operation of the property owners.

When bins wear out, recourse must be had to the cumbersome method of serving notices, reporting to the Committee, serving Statutory Notices, supplying in default and recovering the cost. The complete course of events often lasts a few months, during which time the bin gets steadily worse. Many owners are under the impression that they are no longer responsible for the provision of dustbins, and cannot quite understand that each case has to be settled on its merits. If it were not for the fact that many small property owners do not know their way about Court procedure and are in any case extremely hesitant about appearing in Court, we should certainly have had quite a number of appeals.

Many of the small property owners feel there is an injustice in this matter and think the Council is using its power to ride roughshod over them. The question of a Municipal Bin Provision Scheme has been twice considered and rejected by the Council. I trust that in a third review of the matter they may come into line with other progressive authorities, thereby not only saving the department much frustration, but placing the whole cleansing service on a proper business-like footing. The household bin is the keystone of the public cleansing service. It should be municipally owned like the other parts of the service.

In this connection, it is sincerely to be hoped that the Government will refrain from dropping any more spanners in this particular machine. The Order prohibiting the galvanizing of dustbins was nothing short of calamitous. One would have thought that the experience gained in this connection during the War years would have been sufficient to have prevented a repetition of the painted and other kinds of dustbin. These bins have such a short life that they are both expensive and wasteful of metal. They would play havoc with the finances of any bin provision scheme, and among other things merely supply the opponents of such schemes with ammunition. If at any future time galvanized bins could not be obtained, I think it would be preferable, to resort to temporary containers of the occupiers choice, until proper bins were once more available.

Refuse in Sedgley is removed weekly. For this purpose, three S.D. freighters are employed each with a driver and four loaders—if all of them turn up to work. Unfortunately, they do not always do so. The weekly collection is only maintained by the operation of a bonus scheme which was described in my last report. The scheme is still working satisfactorily and it enables the work to be done in spite of considerable absences.

With an established strength in the department of 26 men, during 1952, the following time was lost.

228 days through holidays
400 days through paid sickness
172 days through absence without pay
<hr/>
800 days
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This is the equivalent of being three men under strength for the whole of the year. The work of the three men was done by the others and was paid for by the bonus.

Some of the men are quite anxious to earn more money, but others find the extra effort involved beyond them. This is particularly to be found among new entrants. Believing that Local Government work is a soft job, they get the surprise of their lives when they give it a trial. One day is often sufficient for them to ask for their cards. Sometimes they struggle along until a wet day acts as the final straw, and we see them no more.

The older employees are the ones who are keeping the service going. Recruits who will stay, especially young ones, are very rare. What will happen as these older men retire, I do not know.

Trade refuse is collected at the same time as household refuse and gives rise to quite a number of arguments. The basis of payment is £1 per bin per annum. But some business men have their own idea of what a binful of refuse is, especially when it is in barrels, old boxes, or lying heaped in a yard. In future we are endeavouring to avoid such troubles by insisting on proper bins and by obtaining a signature and a promise to pay for the removal of a definite number of bins.

In addition to the three vehicles engaged in the removal of house and trade refuse, another S.D. freighter is engaged for most of the time in the collection of salvage. Paper is collected by this vehicle from shops and factories, and kitchen waste from street bins and individual containers.

The salvage of waste paper was continued throughout the year in spite of the market nearly disappearing. We were "rationed" regarding the amount we could send to the mills and managed to keep to this figure by refusing to make special collections and by burning a lot of not-too-clean paper at the tips.

With regard to kitchen waste, the greater part of the district is served by street containers, and a few selected areas have individual containers. While the individual bin is undoubtedly the superior system, being much more hygienic and yielding a greater quantity of a cleaner product, it is much more expensive and we simply cannot afford to increase the number of these small bins. Quite a considerable loss of income occurred during the year through the stealing of kitchen waste from the street bins.

I give below the weight of paper and kitchen waste collected during the year with the amount received for same.

Paper	..	59 tons	11 cwts.	3 qrs.	..	£645
Kitchen Waste		126 tons	11 cwts.	2 qrs.	..	£407

A small amount is received from the sale of salvaged bottles, but it is of little account. During the year we were asked to consider the salvage of tins from the refuse. It was decided not to do so because of the possibility of nuisance arising and also because of the doubt we had about the reliability of the market. We had no baling machine and to leave heaps of tins on our tips awaiting collection was simply asking for trouble. After all, we had had some experience in this matter during the war years. As for the market, no doubt the country was short of metal, but it was also short of paper not so long ago.

With regard to the disposal of refuse, two tips were in use during the year. The tip at Holloway Street, as mentioned in my last report, is fast approaching its end, and to conserve space here, as the prospects of another tip were far off, we began tipping as an emergency in a hollow adjoining the Beacon Estate in Sedgley.

The greatest problem we had on our two tips was how to prevent damage by trespassers. It is one we have not yet solved, and it appears that completely fencing the area is the only solution. Unauthorised tipping is continually occurring at evenings and weekends—on occasions lorry loads of rubbish are tipped. Invariably this material is tipped just where we do not want it, generally on the top of a covered or finished run.

Then we have the people who start fires—mostly youths. Covering material is scraped away and inflammable material is collected, pushed into the tip, and fired. It may seem unbelievable that such things could happen. In our case it has been proved to have happened.

Fortunately we had no other trouble with our tips. Insect pests were hardly in evidence, doubtless due to the use of gam-mexane dust.

Covering material, however, is not an easy matter. Ashes can be obtained in large quantities, but the loading and haulage is an expensive business. One vehicle is practically employed full time for this purpose. It is an old vehicle and was first registered in 1933. It has given good service, but its really useful days are over. A new fore and aft S.D. freighter was purchased during the year to replace another very old vehicle and has been a great asset to the department. In one respect alone, that of compressing or rolling the tip, it has proved invaluable—when fully loaded its weight is nearly 10 tons.

The question of purchasing a “Calfdozer” for the tips was carefully considered, and a trial was actually staged with one. It was expensive, and it would have meant the loss of a considerable amount of paper salvage. If we had one large tip where the vehicle could have been housed it might have been a feasible proposition, but to expect such a vehicle to travel daily from tip to tip was out of the question.

In conclusion, I give the costs for the department as requested by the Ministry. These are high, much higher than I like, but the Council and the ratepayers want a good service and it must be paid for.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL COSTS

	Collection	Disposal	Total
Gross Expenditure	£ 10,109	£ 2,169	£ 12,278
Gross Income ..	631	639	1,270
Net Cost ..	9,478	1,530	11,008
Unit Costs— Net cost per ton	s. d. 29 6.15	s. d. 4 9.17	s. d. 34 3.32
Net cost per 1,000 population	£ s. d. 412 1 9	£ s. d. 66 10 5	£ s. d. 478 12 2
Net cost per 1,000 premises ..	1462 13 1	236 2 3	1698 15 4

Total refuse collected (estimated) 6,423 tons

Weight per 1,000 population per day 15.3 cwts.

Number of premises from which refuse is collected .. 6,480

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Rivers Pollution

There are only two small streams in this district, one of which forms our southern boundary. From time to time complaints have been received of pollution to these streams, but in the year under review, serious objection was taken to foaming in the stream on our boundary. This was not simply a matter of the usual detergents in the sewage. Huge mountains of reddish-tinted foam billowed over the banks of the stream wherever there was any turbulence. The foam reached heights of 12 and 15 feet in places. Another district further downstream got what was left of the foam after we had suffered the brunt of the attack.

The trouble actually came from another district up stream, where the treatment plant of a chemical works had gone wrong. On its way downstream it had been coloured red by waste water from pit washings in our own area.

We have had no trouble with foaming since going into the above matter, but it has drawn attention to the stream. People now tend to look at it suspiciously, and now of course we can expect complaints on the least provocation.

Rodent Control

One operator was employed part-time during the year, and in addition, members of the staff investigated and carried out certain treatments. The sewers were treated twice, and certain localities continued to show infestation despite the general improvement throughout the district. Certain reservoirs of infestation, principally the four sewage disposal works were treated at the same time as the sewers.

The number of complaints received are now becoming very few, and most of them refer to the stray rat at the bottom of the garden or under the fowlpen.

Under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the district has been searched for signs of rodent infestation. Nothing of a serious nature was discovered.

Insect Pests

Once again we had a year remarkably free from trouble in this respect. No bugs, no crickets, practically no cockroaches, only a few cases of ants, and that is almost all there is to say. Even the common house fly is becoming less common. The blowfly, however, is still rather a serious nuisance in meat shops and in fish frying premises.

Caravan Problem

There are two aspects to this problem—the modern trailer caravan and that of the nomad. We endeavoured to solve the first problem by the provision of a caravan site where those who desired it could station their caravans. In my last annual report I stated that the Council had agreed in principle to the establishment of such a site and that I hoped to report better progress in my next annual report. Unfortunately we are still waiting for the site, and although matters have been moving, I must still repeat that I hope to report better progress by next year.

With regard to the nomads, we also appear to be no nearer the solution of a serious problem, and yet the solution appears, on the face of it, perfectly simple. These nomads have a perfect right to their way of life, as long as the laws of the country remain as they are. The nomads know where they want to live—in the country in the summer and near the towns in the winter. We need not search for sites for them—the nomads will tell us where they can be found. And in practically every case they consist of derelict land which the owners have no intention of using for any other purpose.

The simple answer, therefore, is to stop hounding them about. Provide them with the facilities they need and treat them as human beings. Once they realised that everyman's hand was not against them, their anti-social outlook might change. Once they realised they could stay where they were, provided they observed the social code of the surrounding neighbourhood, their habits would improve out of all recognition. Once they realised they could stay in a district, make a livelihood for themselves, and send their children to school, they would no longer constitute the problem they are to-day. The trouble is that no district has the courage to try out this simple solution. Everyone is willing to see someone else tackle the problem, but no one wants to lead the way.

Factories

For the size of the district we have comparatively few factories. No serious cause for complaint was found during the year and those matters which were brought to the attention of managements were quickly put right. At the end of the report I give a copy of the figures submitted annually under the Factories Acts, 1937 and 48.

With regard to smoke abatement we have never had any serious trouble from chimneys in our own district. In fact the district appears to be remarkably free from smoke. I am aware that this might be an illusion which could easily be shattered. Still, we get no complaints and we see no chimneys belching forth volumes of smoke.

In all houses built by the local authority the latest types of grate are installed. The Council is a member of the National Smoke Abatement Society, and their delegate to the body, the present Chairman of the Council, is very interested in this subject and never misses a meeting.

Shops Act

Towards the end of the year the local authority took over from the County Council the administration of those sections of the Shops Act relating to hours of closing, half holidays, etc.

By the end of the year, as we had only been administering the Act for two months, there was little to report.

DAVID J. W. ROBERTSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

Part 1.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	18	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	57	100	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' Premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ..	64	118	3	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

PARTICULARS	No. of Cases in which Defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	9	9	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	14	13	—	1	—

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

	Section 110		
	Number of Out-Workers	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists
Wearing Apparel (Making, etc.) ..	81	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ..	9	—	—
Total ..	90	—	—

